

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The Massie reference, like a standard blood pressure cuff, discloses the use of a cuff to apply external pressure to occlude arterial blood flow.

The Michaeli reference discloses a method for tissue resonance analysis using an ultrasound probe to propagate ultrasonic pulses through the head of a patient, to measure intracranial pressure. The Michaeli reference does not disclose the steps of: "mathematically manipulating the electrical sequence such that amplitude changes of the manipulated sequence, at a substantially constant frequency, correspond to phase changes of the ultrasonic sequence" and "analyzing amplitude changes of the manipulated sequence to identify the effect of pulsatile components on at least one surface layer of the body compartment." Based on the above observations, claims 1, 3-24 are allowable.

The Massie reference discloses the monitoring of the behavior of the arterial wall under cuff pressure with a doppler ultrasonic exploratory unit which basically is a motion detection system (see column 3, lines 1-4). The Massie reference does not anticipate the features of "non-invasive" apparatus comprising "a transmitting device for imparting ultrasonic waves into one or more body compartments that are not being subjected to externally applied blood flow occluding pressure."

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOHN F. RAMIREZ whose telephone number is (571)272-8685. The examiner can normally be reached on (Mon-Fri) 7:00 - 3:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian L. Casler can be reached on (571) 272-4956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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